

Madison Birth Center

The Madison Birth Center (MBC), located at 6720 Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue in Middleton,



WI was started in 2003 by Aszani Kunkler, CNM, MSN and was the first independent birth center in the state of Wisconsin. The Center has also earned both National Accreditation and “Baby-Friendly” designation. The Birth Center increases the childbearing options available for women and families, providing both birth center and home birth services. They also serve as an educational resource for the general public, teaching them about the midwifery model of care and building bridges within the medical community to promote professional, collaborative relationships. SBA was able to assist Aszani in the creation of MBC with a 7(a) loan.

The Madison Birth Center provides high quality maternal and newborn services to healthy women anticipating an uncomplicated pregnancy, labor and childbirth. Only women with healthy term pregnancies are eligible for a birth center birth. Because pregnancy and birth are affected by physical, emotional and spiritual factors, all of these are considered in the assessment of the needs of the childbearing woman and her family. The birth center uses the entire prenatal period to educate the client and her family about the upcoming labor, birth, postpartum and newborn care. The center also provides gynecologic and primary care to women of all ages that includes annual physical examinations, health screening, such as pap smears and blood tests, and acute care gynecologic visits.

MBC includes two birth rooms, each with a queen-size bed, air-jet whirlpool tub and private bathroom and shower. Each birth room has its own direct exit and a newborn resuscitation area that has warming lights, oxygen, suction and all equipment necessary for neonatal resuscitation. Birth centers are very cost-effective and are typically 30-50% less than the cost of a comparable hospital birth.

The Birth Center is staffed by certified nurse-midwives. Consultation and collaboration with other health providers is undertaken as needed to assure the highest standard of care. Referral to an obstetric physician is available whenever necessary. All clinical personnel are required to have current infant, child and adult CPR certification for health providers as well as neonatal resuscitation provider (NRP) certification. Nurses providing postpartum visits are also certified lactation consultants.

Aszani has worked with hundreds of birthing women as a doula, labor and delivery nurse, and nurse-midwife. In the 1980s, she co-founded Full Bloom, a center offering childbirth classes, doula services and massage to childbearing women. She taught childbirth classes for the International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA) for ten years. She attained her midwifery certificate from the Frontier School of Midwifery and her Masters’ Degree in nursing from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH.

She is an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) and a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). Before starting the birth center, she worked as a nurse-midwife in a busy suburban Chicago midwifery practice. Aszani is mother to two teenagers - Maureen, born in a hospital, and Daniel, born at home.

Aszani brings a sense of dedication, commitment and just plain caring to the Madison Birth Center that is commendable. SBA is proud to have been of assistance to Aszani in the creation of the Madison Birth Center and to write about this success.

